

Water Integration Project Meeting Minutes November 13, 2002, ID-N

Attendees:

Jan Brown	INEEL	browjm@inel.gov
Alan Jines	DOE-ID	jinesa@inel.gov
Richard Kauffman	DOE-ID	kauffmrm@id.doe.gov
Patti Natoni	DOE-ID	natonipm@id.doe.gov
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Jeff Perry	DOE-ID	perryjn@id.doe.gov
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Conference Call		
Tony Kluk	DOE-HQ	anthony.kluk@em.doe.gov
E.B. Nuckols	DOE-HQ	ernest.nuckols@em.doe.gov
Amy Powell	ANL-W	amy.powell@anlw.anl.gov
Dave Rydalch	INEEL CAB	weedfree@fretel.com

Stakeholder Involvement Opportunities

Poor attendance at the monthly meeting on November 6th was discussed. The minutes were not posted prior to the meeting and no additional notification was sent to stakeholders to encourage their attendance. The following changes have been made to enhance communication:

- The monthly meeting schedule has been added to the tracking log as a separate section.
- All items for the website need to be provided to Karen Hsu by noon on Tuesday so they can be posted on Tuesday.
- A reminder will be sent to external stakeholders on the Monday prior to the monthly meeting.

Jan and Doug will be going to the Boise area on Thursday, November 14th. Their itinerary includes:

- Meeting with Cheryl Burgess at the Bechtel Boise office and Julie Scanlin, Idaho Project WET Coordinator;
- Making a presentation at the Food Producers of Idaho monthly meeting (45 minutes on the agenda);
- Meeting with the Idaho Department of Water Resources (IDWR) Planning and Technical Services Division,
- Visiting with Jon Sandoval from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality, and
- Having lunch with Jaime Fuhrman, Public Affairs officer with the INEEL Oversight office.

The Idaho Council on Industry and the Environment (ICIE) contract has been signed. They will be assisting INEEL by incorporating the Water Integration Project into three legislative workshops and sponsoring three Spring workshops focused on feedback on the proposed Science Strategy.

It was agreed that stakeholder involvement activities tied to development of the Science Strategy would focus on

- Informing the public of how research needs were developed, prioritized, and addressed
- Finding out if there are other R&D needs external to INEEL that fit well with the lab's prioritized needs and if the specific research can be applied to other problems
- Informing the public of what the next steps are and their role(s), including as possible collaborators

Monthly meetings are a good opportunity to brainstorm how to enhance the program constituency. This would include who should be invited to the workshops or to the field tour in June. The WIP stakeholder list needs to be melded into the bigger INEEL stakeholder list using the Access database managed by INEEL Communications.

Jan is preparing a white paper on the Aquifer Academy concept and will present the concept at the December 4th meeting. Ways to integrate other INEEL programs into the concept are being investigated in order to maximize benefits and resources. Ongoing programs like the Science Action Teams should be incorporated.

Discussions with IDWR will include finding out what their needs are. For example, the development of the Snake River Plain Basin Plan was deferred by the Idaho Water Resources Board due the adjudication process. This plan still needs to be done. Dave Rydalch noted that the Snake River Plain aquifer has been identified by the Department as Idaho's number two natural resource (the Snake River is first).

The role of stakeholder involvement in the development of the Conceptual Model was discussed. So far in the process, due to the technical nature of the work, specific stakeholders have been invited to participate (e.g., USGS, EPA, universities, state agencies). The role of the larger public will be on how to use the conceptual model. An Executive Summary of the Conceptual Model document will be published and input from targeted external stakeholders will again be solicited. The document will be peer reviewed for validation and a workshop will be held as an open forum to discuss the document and Conceptual Model. The Conceptual Model can be a communication tool among researchers or between researchers and the INEEL and the public. For example, it might be used when discussing the conflicting hypotheses and what they mean to the public.

Alan Jines noted from his experience with other projects that the public does provide technical comments. It is important that these people be given the opportunity for involvement in the technical matters so they can make a real contribution.

Conceptual Model Revisions and Improvements

The Northwind contract will be signed today. . Paul is meeting with Brennon Orr this afternoon to discuss a path forward to address comments. Paul clarified that Section 2 discusses only the competing hypotheses related to the two subregional studies. The source term document will deal more with geochemistry, K_d , inventory, and other items related to contaminant characteristics. The vadose zone document will look at other processes in the vadose zone and, dependent on funding, the USGS EarthVision work will cover the geologic framework. The latest draft of the conceptual model presentation was handed out.

Review of Action Log/Look Ahead

Item 48 - Identification of funding for the cumulative risk tool is on hold until the continuing resolution problem is resolved.

The Wood River RC& D meeting will be 12/10/02 and the Legislator Workshops will be 12/9-11/02. The year-end report has been provided to DOE-ID for comments and approval. The aquifer white paper was added to the milestones, to be completed in draft by 12/4/02.

Adjourned at 2:01.